

## **Yuba River Wildlife Area: Priority Acquisition Project Phase I Project Proposal**

Summary: The *Yuba River Wildlife Area: Priority Acquisition Project Phase I* includes project planning, property appraisals and environmental assessments of three major property holdings spanning approximately 14.5 miles and 4,400 acres of the Yuba River corridor.

This Project represents an historic opportunity to acquire the highest priority conservation targets of the Yuba River Wildlife Area Conservation Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The CAPP coordinates California Department of Fish and Game's acquisition and management activities on more than 81,000 acres of the Yuba River corridor to support protection of threatened and endangered fisheries and other species as well as hunting, fishing, recreation and increased public access.

This Project also supports the goals and objectives of the Yuba River Conservancy effort, a multi agency collaborative that has identified and prioritized public access, recreation and wildlife opportunities on this river corridor since 1999 and the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) Yuba Foothills Project, which directs land and water conservation efforts along the Yuba River and throughout a 20 mile north-south blue oak woodland corridor.

Conservation planning and river protections have been discussed, funded and planned in earnest for more than 10 years on the Yuba River, however, this set of acquisition projects represent the most substantial and serious opportunity for these critical parcels to become conservation properties during this time. All three property owners are willing sellers and a Memorandum of Understanding detailing the partnership between Trust for Public Land and each property owner for the appraisal and assessment Phase is attached.

### ***Phase 1***

The Priority Acquisition Project Phase 1 includes:

- The completion of the Yuba River Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Board and California Department of Fish and Game. The CAPP includes 81,000 acres and 20 miles of the Yuba River, including three of five of the highest priority target properties.
- Completion of written appraisals and, if required, environmental assessments for three target properties in partnership with property owners and coordinated by the Trust for Public Land. Each of the three target properties are willing sellers and are in a Memorandum of Understanding with the Trust for Public Land detailing the appraisal and assessment process.
- Development and completion of acquisition plans and long term land management plans.

### **Property details.**

**Property 1: Rice's Crossing** (Map and Parcel Numbers attached as Exhibit 1.)